

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 134230
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:JD
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
S/S-O

-----100049Z 010324 /62

O 100030Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134230

EXDIS, LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: STATE 133570

1. PLEASE MAKE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN LETTER IN REFTEL.
DELETE FINAL TWO SENTENCES IN FIRST PARA AND AFTER WORDS
"TO 15 DAYS" AND SUBSTITUTE "GIVEN THE FACT THAT OFFICIAL
NEGOTIATIONS ARE ACTUALLY UNDERWAY AND THAT BOTH GOVERN-
MENTS ARE REPORTEDLY WORKING TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE COM-
PROMISE, IN OUR JUDGMENT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO
THE SHIP AND THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ON BOARD." DELETE
SECOND PARA AND SUBSTITUTE "WE CANNOT OF COURSE PREDICT
THE COURSE THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY FOLLOW NOR THE
FINAL OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE CIRCUM-
STANCES WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES, ALONG
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WITH THE LIBYAN OFFICIALS, PLAN TO STAY IN LONDON THROUGH
THE WEEKEND. WE UNDERSTAND, IN THIS RESPECT, THAT THE
CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO
BE CONCLUDED BY THEN." DELETE SENTENCE IN THIRD PARA WHICH
READS "SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE THAT WE COMMUNICATE
WITH YOU AFTER THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH THROUGH
YOUR TULSA OFFICE."

2. FOR KINSOLVING: SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL RE ORAL PRESENTATION TO THORNTON. "IN CONVEYING LETTER YOU SHOULD TELL THORNTON ORALLY THAT LETTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A USG ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF HIS SHIP IN THE DISPUTED AREA. UNTIL OR UNLESS THERE IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, OUR OFFICIAL POSITION REMAINS THAT OF STRONGLY DISCOURAGING AMERICAN RIGS FROM ENTERING INTO THE DISPUTED ZONE."

3. TUNIS FOR AMBASSADOR: IN KEEPING WITH CHANGE IN LETTER, YOU SHOULD NOTE TO CHATTY THAT WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE TUNISIANS AND AMERICANS IN LONDON THROUGH THE WEEKEND BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

4. WE HAVE HAD THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF CURRENT SITUATION WITH AMBASSADOR HEDDA. HE EXPLAINED GOT POINT OF VIEW RE TIMING OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN TUNIS IN TERMS OF GOT FINDING ITSELF IN POSITION OF, IN EFFECT, BEING UNABLE TO RESIST MOMENTUM OF EVENTS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF USG INABILITY TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT RIG WOULD ACTUALLY WITHDRAW AFTER LONDON MEETINGS. HE ASKED US TO PUT HOLD ON DELIVERY OF LETTER TO THORNTON UNTIL WE HAD RESULTS OF MEETINGS IN TUNIS. WE DEMURRED BUT AS A RESULT OF HIS COMMENTS ON UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION, WE DECIDED TO MAKE THE MODIFICATIONS TO LETTER.

5. WE EXPLAINED TO HEDDA THAT SENDING LETTER SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS LACK OF SYMPATHY ON PART OF USG FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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TUNISIAN POSITION. INDEED, FACT OF NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION WAS RECOGNIZED AS CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT BY TUNISIANS AND THEREFORE WE CAN ONLY APPLAUD THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE NOTED THAT LETTER WAS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN PUT TO US BY THORNTON FOUR DAYS AGO AND WE OWED HIM AN ANSWER. WE COULD NOT SEE WHERE OFFICIAL USG CONFIRMATION OF SITUATION WHICH APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY KNOWN COULD "WEAKEN" TUNISIAN BARGAINING POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, USG HAD OBLIGATIONS TO TUNISIANS AS CLOSE FRIEND AND ALSO OBLIGATIONS TO ITS OWN CITIZENS. WE WERE DOING OUR BEST TO DISCHARGE BOTH IN AS FRANK AND FORTH-RIGHT A MANNER AS POSSIBLE.

6. NEAR END OF CONVERSATION, HEDDA ASKED WHAT USG WOULD DO IF NEGOTIATIONS FAILED. HE ADDED HE WAS NOT PREDICTING FAILURE AND HOPED THERE WOULD BE EARLY AGREEMENT. WE REAFFIRMED THAT OUR POSITION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THAT THE AMERICAN SHIP SHOULD NOT BE IN THE DISPUTED ZONE AND

THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION TO DISPUTE. WE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, SPECULATE ON
ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE U.S. POSITION/ACTIONS. VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JSMITH:JL
APPROVED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL
S/S-O:RGAMBLE

-----182301Z 002453 /66

R 182200Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134230

EXDIS

FOL RPT STATE 134230 ACTION TUNIS LONDON TRIPOLI 10 JUN 77
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134230

EXDIS, LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

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PROMISE, IN OUR JUDGMENT THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE SHIP AND THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ON BOARD." DELETE SECOND PARA AND SUBSTITUTE "WE CANNOT OF COURSE PREDICT THE COURSE THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY FOLLOW NOR THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES, ALONG WITH THE LIBYAN OFFICIALS, PLAN TO STAY IN LONDON THROUGH THE WEEKEND. WE UNDERSTAND, IN THIS RESPECT, THAT THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED BY THEN." DELETE SENTENCE IN THIRD PARA WHICH READS "SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE THAT WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AFTER THIS WEEKEND, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH THROUGH YOUR TULSA OFFICE."

2. FOR KINSOLVING: SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL RE ORAL PRESENTATION TO THORNTON. "IN CONVEYING LETTER YOU SHOULD TELL THORNTON ORALLY THAT LETTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A USG ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF HIS SHIP IN THE DISPUTED AREA. UNTIL OR UNLESS THERE IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, OUR OFFICIAL POSITION REMAINS THAT OF STRONGLY DISCOURAGING AMERICAN RIGS FROM ENTERING INTO THE DISPUTED ZONE."

3. TUNIS FOR AMBASSADOR: IN KEEPING WITH CHANGE IN LETTER, YOU SHOULD NOTE TO CHATY THAT WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE TUNISIANS AND AMERICANS IN LONDON THROUGH THE WEEKEND BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

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MEETINGS IN TUNIS. WE DEMURRED BUT AS A RESULT OF HIS COMMENTS ON UNCERTAINTY OF SITUATION, WE DECIDED TO MAKE THE MODIFICATIONS TO LETTER.

5. WE EXPLAINED TO HEDDA THAT SENDING LETTER SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS LACK OF SYMPATHY ON PART OF USG FOR TUNISIAN POSITION. INDEED, FACT OF NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION WAS RECOGNIZED AS CONSIDERABLE

DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT BY TUNISIANS AND THEREFORE WE CAN ONLY APPLAUD THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE NOTED THAT LETTER WAS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT HAD BEEN PUT TO US BY THORNTON FOUR DAYS AGO AND WE OWED HIM AN ANSWER. WE COULD NOT SEE WHERE OFFICIAL USG CONFIRMATION OF SITUATION WHICH APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY KNOWN COULD "WEAKEN" TUNISIAN BARGAINING POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, USG HAD OBLIGATIONS TO TUNISIANS AS CLOSE FRIEND AND ALSO OBLIGATIONS TO ITS OWN CITIZENS. WE WERE DOING OUR BEST TO DISCHARGE BOTH IN AS FRANK AND FORTH-RIGHT A MANNER AS POSSIBLE.

6. NEAR END OF CONVERSATION, HEDDA ASKED WHAT USG WOULD DO IF NEGOTIATIONS FAILED. HE ADDED HE WAS NOT PREDICTING FAILURE AND HOPED THERE WOULD BE EARLY AGREEMENT. WE REAFFIRMED THAT OUR POSITION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THAT THE AMERICAN SHIP SHOULD NOT BE IN THE DISPUTED ZONE AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO DISPUTE. WE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, SPECULATE ON ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE U.S. POSITION/ACTIONS. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE134230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NAVELIOTES:JD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770206-0941
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770668/aaaachtq.tel
Line Count: 246
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: bc14667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 133570
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2193159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US
To: TUNIS LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc14667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009